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16 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
17 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

18 * * *

19 In re:
20
21 CETUS MORTGAGE, LTD.

Case No. BK-08-51131-GWZ
Chapter 7

22 Debtor.
23 _____/

24 ANGELIQUE L.M. CLARK,
25 TRUSTEE,

Adv. No. _____

26 Plaintiff,

27 vs.

**COMPLAINT TO AVOID TRANSFERS
PURSUANT TO 11 USC §§ 544, 547(b),
548(a) AND/OR NRS § 112.180**

28 PHILIP J. MAITA and
TABITHA MICHELLE MAITA,

Defendants.
_____/

1
2 Plaintiff Angelique L.M. Clark, Trustee, by and through her counsel Woodburn
3 and Wedge complains and alleges as follows:

4
5 I

6 **PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

7 1. This case presents claims that arise under Title 11 USC and, therefore,
8 this Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to the provisions of 28 USC §
9 1334(b):

10 2. This matter presents issues relating to the determination, avoidance and
11 recovery of preferential transfers and fraudulent conveyances and, therefore, the claims
12 alleged herein are core proceedings under the provisions of 28 USC § 157(b)(2)(F) and
13 (H).
14

15 3. This Court is a proper venue for this case under the provisions of 28 USC
16 § 1409(a).

17 4. Plaintiff Angelique L.M. Clark ("Clark") is the duly appointed trustee of the
18 Chapter 7 bankruptcy estate of Cetus Mortgage, Ltd. ("Cetus") pending before this Court
19 as Case No. BK-08-51131 ("Bankruptcy").

20 5. The Defendants conducted business with Cetus within Washoe County,
21 Nevada, and the claims asserted herein relate to such business activities.
22

23 6. Clark is uncertain whether the Defendants' full legal name, the nature of
24 the Defendants' existence (corporation, partnership, limited liability company, etc.) and
25 the named Trustee(s) of the Trust, if applicable, are correct and, therefore, reserves the
26 right to amend this Complaint at the appropriate time to properly identify the Defendants.
27
28

II

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

7. At all times relevant to the matters alleged herein, Cetus was a Nevada corporation doing business in Washoe County, Nevada.

8. Cetus was licensed as a mortgage company by the Mortgage Lending Division of the State of Nevada Department of Business and Industry and was engaged in the business of brokering and servicing loans secured by residential and commercial properties located mostly in Northern Nevada.

9. Typically, loans brokered by Cetus were funded by investments solicited from third party investors willing to loan funds to Cetus borrowers. The loans brokered by Cetus were occasionally funded by a single investor, but in most instances the loans were funded with monies pooled from a group of investors.

10. In July 2008, the State of Nevada, Department of Business and Industry, Division of Mortgage Lending seized Cetus' assets on the basis of several complaints from investors that Cetus had:

- A. Forged signatures on property conveyances;
- B. Altered property descriptions in deeds of trust without proper authorization;
- C. Failed to properly account for investors' funds; and
- D. Committed other violations of law.

11. Cetus allowed its Nevada mortgage company license to expire without renewal on June 30, 2008.

1
2 12. Cetus filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of the United
3 States Bankruptcy Code with this Court on July 9, 2008, commencing the above captioned
4 Bankruptcy.

5
6 13. On July 17, 2008, Clark was appointed Trustee of Cetus' bankruptcy estate
7 pursuant to the provisions of 11 USC § 1104. Cetus' Chapter 11 case was converted to
8 Chapter 7 proceedings on August 19, 2008, and Clark was subsequently appointed
9 Trustee of Cetus' Chapter 7 estate.

10 14. Pursuant to 11 USC § 704, one of the duties of bankruptcy trustees is to
11 investigate the financial affairs of the debtor. Clark has investigated, and continues to
12 investigate, Cetus' financial affairs. To date, Clark's investigation has revealed, among
13 other things, that:
14

- 15 A. Contrary to Nevada State law and regulations governing mortgage
16 companies, Cetus commingled investors' funds;
17
18 B. Cetus used monies invested by lenders for purposes other than for which
19 they were invested; and
20
21 C. Cetus, in some instances, failed to repay investors when loans they funded
22 were paid in full by the borrowers and, instead, used the repayment funds to
23 pay other investor claims or fund its operations. In turn, Cetus used other
24 investors' investment funds to continue to pay interest to the prior investors
25 to make it appear borrowers were still making interest payments on the
26 loans.

27 15. Based upon her investigations to date, Clark alleges that Cetus was
28 engaged in a phony investment scheme in which:

- A. Monies paid by later investors were, at times, used to pay returns on
investments to earlier investors while no actual return had been received on
behalf of the earlier investors;

B. Monies that properly belonged to certain investors were used to continue to pay interest on investments made by other investors in an attempt to cover up the fact the other investors' loans had gone into default; and

C. Monies invested by later investors were used to fund prior loans from which Cetus had improperly diverted funds to cover up the fact loan funds had been misused.

16. Clark alleges that Cetus engaged in the phony investment activities referenced in Paragraph 14, above, for the purpose of causing investors, old and new, to continue to invest with Cetus, i.e. Cetus was engaged in a Ponzi scheme.

III

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Preference—11 USC §547(b))

17. Clark repeats each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 16, above, and incorporates the same herein as if set forth in their entirety.

18. Based upon information available from Cetus' books and records, Clark is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that from and after April 10, 2008, and up until Cetus filed for bankruptcy relief, it made the following payments to the Defendants:

DEFENDANT	DATE	CHECK NO.	AMOUNT
	04/10/2008	96430	\$333.33
	05/06/2008	97091	\$208.33
	05/06/2008	97102	\$166.67
	05/08/2008	97176	\$333.33
	05/16/2008	98024	\$416.67
	05/19/2008	98036	\$416.67

19. At the time the payments set forth in Paragraph 18, above, were made the Defendants were creditors of Cetus for purposes of 11 USC §547(b)(1).

1
2 the payments and the interests in the notes exceeded the amounts the Defendants had
3 invested with Cetus ("Excess Transfers").

4 27. The Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 26, above, were made on or
5 within two (2) years before Cetus filed its Chapter 11 petition in this matter.

6 28. Cetus made the Excess Transfers listed in Paragraph 26, above, with actual
7 intent to hinder, delay, or defraud persons or entities to which Cetus was, or would
8 become, indebted.
9

10 29. The Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 26, above, constitute
11 fraudulent transfers pursuant to 11 USC §548(a)(1)(A) that may be avoided by this Court.

12 Wherefore, Clark prays for relief as hereinafter set forth.
13

14 **V**

15 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
16 **(Fraudulent Transfers—11 USC §548(a)(1)(B))**

17 30. Clark repeats each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through
18 29, above, and incorporates the same herein as if set forth in their entirety.

19 31. At the time Cetus made the Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 26,
20 above, Cetus received less than equivalent value in exchange for the payment.

21 32. At the time Cetus made the Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 26,
22 above, Cetus was either insolvent or rendered insolvent as a result of the payments.

23 33. The Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 26, above, constitute
24 fraudulent transfers pursuant to 11 USC §548(a)(1)(B) that may be avoided by this Court.
25

26 Wherefore, Clark prays for relief as hereinafter set forth.
27
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VI

**FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(Fraudulent Transfers—NRS §112.180(1)(a))**

34. Clark repeats each and every allegation contained in Paragraphs 1 through 33, above, and incorporates the same herein as if set forth in their entirety.

35. Pursuant to 11 USC §544, Clark has the rights and powers of a lien creditor and as a successor to certain creditors and purchasers which provides her with standing to bring any fraudulent transfer actions that may exist under non-bankruptcy law.

36. Based upon information available from Cetus' books and records, Clark is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that from and after July 10, 2004, and up until Cetus filed for bankruptcy relief on July 9, 2008, it made payments to the Defendants and/or gave the Defendants interests in promissory notes, and that the aggregate value of the payments and the interests in the notes exceeded the amounts they had invested with Cetus ("Excess Transfers").

37. Cetus made the Excess Transfers listed in Paragraph 36, above, with actual intent to hinder, delay, or defraud its creditors.

38. The Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 36, above, constitute fraudulent transfers pursuant to NRS §112.180(1)(a) that may be avoided by this Court.

Wherefore, Clark prays for relief as follows:

A. For an order voiding the payments referenced in Paragraph 15 as preferential transfers under the provisions of 11 USC §577(b)(1);

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1
2 B. For an order voiding the Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 26 as
3 fraudulent transfers under the provisions of 11 USC § 548(a)(1)(A);

4 C. For an order voiding the Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 26 as
5 fraudulent transfers under the provisions of 11 USC § 548(a)(1)(B);
6

7 D. For an order voiding the Excess Transfers referenced in Paragraph 36 as
8 fraudulent transfers under the provisions of NRS §112.180(1)(a);

9 E. For judgment against the Defendants, or any immediate or mediate
10 transferee of any preferential payment or fraudulent transfer, in an amount to be proven at
11 the trial in this matter, as provided in 11 USC §550;

12 F. For an award of costs incurred in connection with the prosecution of this
13 matter;
14

15 G. For an award of attorneys' fees incurred in connection with the prosecution
16 of this matter; and

17 H. For such other and further relief as to this Court is necessary or appropriate
18 under the circumstances.

19 DATED this 30th day of June, 2010.

20
21 WOODBURN and WEDGE

22
23 By 

24 John F. Murtha, Esq.
25 Attorneys for Trustee
26 Angelique L.M. Clark
27
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